Deputies of the USSR may require changes in the mechanisms of cooperation between our two countries.

Electronic Telepone Exchanges in Gujarat

*235. SHRI ANATRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some New Electronic Telephone Exchanges are under construction in Gujarat;

(b) whether the whole district of Kutch is covered and the number of such exchanges proposed to be given to Kutch area and by when the work would be completed; and

(c) wheher 'Mandvi-Kutch' is covered under this scheme as more than 5000 persons of this town are residing in gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHR RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the 8 existing Electronic Exchanges, 26 out of the remaining 73 exchanges are planned to be converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1991-92 in Kutch district.

(c) Yes, Sir. One electronic exchange of 1000 lines capacity is planned at Mandvi-Kutch during 1991-92.

Cooperation with the Developed countries for the development of a New Technology

*236. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek more cooperation with the developed countries particularly with the USA and other European countries in respect of development of new technologies and also for social services; and

(b) what is the response of different countries in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government welcomes cooperation with developed countries, including USA and European countries for development of new technologies and social services, in accordance with our development priorities. Several programmes of mutual interest have been undertaken with the cooperation of these countries for the development of new technologies, as well as in some areas of social services.

Visit of US envoy to Siachen Glacier

*237. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "US envoy pays a quit visit to Siachen area" appearing in the Sunday Observer dated June 16-22, 1991;

(b) whether the US Envoy actually paid a visit to Siachen area in Ladakh in June, 1991;

(c) if so, whether the visit was arranged by the Union Government and the Ministry of Defence was consulted before permitting the US Embassy plane to land at the I.A.F. base there; and

(d) whether it is the normal parctice to permit foreign diplomats to visit such a vulnerable area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.